EMU halt between Kulwa and Somna

3222. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: WHI the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no railway station or halt for stoppage of EMUs and passenger trains, between Kulwa and Somna Railway Stations, near Khurja Station in Northern Railway, due to which public face problems for up and down journeys to Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have received requests/representations from the public, recommended by Members of Parliament; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to create a new railway station or halt between Kalua and Somna Railway Stations, for the convenience of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) A representation has been received for opening of halt station between Kulwa and Somna Stations. The proposal has been examined and not found financially and operationally justified.

Rail bridge over Saryu in Ayodhya

†3223. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the railway bridge being constructed over Saryu river in Ayodhya and by when this bridge is likely to be opened for traffic;

(b) to what extent the distance between Gorakhpur and Allahabad will De minimised;

(c) whether there is a proposal to run any inter-city train between Allahabad and Gorakhpur, *via* this route;

(d) whether some South-bound trains, *via* Gorakhpur and Banaras, would be operated from this route; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) This is a part of Katra-Faizabad

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

new line project. The work of Saryu bridge is nearing completion. The project is targeted for completion during 2002-03.

(b) After construction of bridge the distance between Gorakhpur and Allahabad will get reduced by about 27 kilometres.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Remodelling of Bangalore Railway Station

3224. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Bangalore City (SBC) station lounge constructed and number of trains added up since then;

(b) the measures taken to ease the congestion and whether there is any proposal for further expansion;

(c) the steps taken to improve passenger amenities like retiring rooms, which are very few at present;

(d) what are the future plans to develop the second entry at SBC; and

(e) whether Government have any programme for overall beautification and remodelling of Bangalore City Railway Station (SBC)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The Bangalore City Station (SBC) lounge was constructed in 1982.40 mail/express trains and ten passenger trains have been added since 1982.

(b) To ease the congestion at SBC, a second coaching terminal at Yashwantpur, for Bangalore area, has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 16.41 crores. As a part of it, a new platform with shelter, foot over bridge connecting both entries and all platforms, extension of Platform Nos. 2 and 3, one pit line, sicklines, one stabling line and improvement to station building have been completed.

(c) 32 retiring rooms are available and work of provision of 4 more retiring rooms at a cost of Rs. 18 lakh has also been sanctioned.